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REMARKS

Filed concurrently herewith is Applicant's Request for Continued Examination. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered and fully considered in connection with such continued examination. Furthermore, the Official Action dated February 1, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In view thereof, claims 1 and 3 have been amended in order to better define that which Applicants regard as the invention. As previously, claims 1-3 and 5 are presently pending in the instant application.

As can be seen from the foregoing amendments, each of independent claims 1 and 3 have been amended in order to include reference to a groove being provided on the bottom side of the panel main body facing the backup section. This feature is neither disclosed in nor suggested by the prior art of record. It is noted from page 10 of Applicants' specification that the groove 15 is provided at a position facing the backup section 27. The groove is provided at a portion of the panel main body 1 located around and outwardly of the plate section 20. Thus, the outer edge of the door section 17 projects further outward than the plate section 20. This feature also being illustrated in Figs. 2, 5, 6, 10 and 11.

With reference to page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 3 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,467,801 issued to Preisler et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,595,543 issued Desprez. This rejection is respectfully traversed in that the combination proposed by the Examiner neither discloses nor suggests that which is presently set forth by Applicants' claimed invention.

As noted hereinabove, each of independent claims 1 and 3 recite that the device includes a groove provided on the bottom side of the panel main body facing the backup section. In doing so, the outer edge of the door section 17 projects outward a greater distance than the plate section 20. This is clearly not the case with the prior art references cited by the

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Examiner. That is, as the Examiner can appreciate from the several figures of each of the Preisler et al. reference and Desprez reference, the groove formed in the bottom side of what can be considered as a panel main body does not face the backup section about a periphery thereof, but is provided adjacent the hinge section which connects the backup section and plate section. Thus, in each of the cited references, the groove is disposed so as to be spaced inwardly of the backup section and not facing the backup section as is specifically recited by Applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' claimed invention as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 3 as well as those claims which depend therefrom clearly distinguishes over the teachings of Preisler et al. when taken alone or in view of the teachings of Desprez and are in proper condition for allowance.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing it is respectfully requested that the rejection of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 1-3 and 5 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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